

RÉSUMÉ

margin

Decision for the Poor

Györgyi Szatmári: *The Possibility in „Not Having” (On the Periphery of Life)*

The Johannine healing-narrative of John 5:1–18 can be seen as a rather contemporary story of encountering the periphery of life. The analysis of the text in the light of today’s experience of pauperage reveals another encounter on the existential level happening simultaneously with the physical one. The man who has been sick for 38 years, after meeting Jesus, turns into a messenger posing the fundamental questions: what, whom and how do we see when looking at someone on the periphery?

Jean-Pierre Longeat: Monasticism on the Periphery

Piusz Berhidai: *Sacred Mobility (Bifurcation on the Path of the Gospel)*

This paper, focuses on the role of ‘periphery’ in the life and spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. Starting from the texts of Franciscan sources, namely the writings and biographies of the Saint, the concept of ‘periphery’ is placed in the broader context of Franciscan spirituality, taking into consideration the ‘double dynamics’ of Evangelic life and the historical and theological perspectives of the ideas of minority and poverty.

Kristóf Horváth: *Legislation on the Homeless (What Happened, Why, and How?)*

The essay is based on the author’s dissertation for which he conducted semi-structured interviews with homeless people and those working in homeless-services. Its aim is to provide a qualitative overview of the content, context, and implications of the policy implemented by the Hungarian government in October 2018 that became widely known as the ‘homeless-ban’. The article outlines the uniqueness of the ban, discusses how the ban was created and implemented, shows why the ban is inherently incapable of tackling the structural problem of homelessness, finally, it argues that the ban’s implementation failed thus far due to local police forces’ unforeseen reluctance to comply and due to the ban’s misconstrued context.

Judit Durst: *„If You Are Short of Money, You Will Just Grab Anything” (Informal Lending and the Baking of the „Unbankable” in Rural Hungary)*

Drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in an economically disadvantaged rural region of North Hungary, the essay explores the financial portfolios and debt relations of the low-income households, showing how different forms of debt (formal and informal) are used, perceived, and valued among the poor, what kinds of different meanings are attached to them, and how they interrelate to each other. The essay argues that debt service creates a vehicle for financial extraction from low-income households. By analysing the juggling of the poor with income scarcity, also the role of informal mony-lending is discussed.

Mihály Nyilas: *Responses to the Pension Problem: Sustainability or Equity?*

One of the most important problem that modern welfare states face nowadays is the „demographic challenge”. The widespread reform of public pension schemes during the post-war decades, the prosperous economic conditions and favourable old age dependency ratio rendered the pension systems stable and the security of pensioners substantially improved. By now, all of these have come to an end; and a series of discussions has been targeting the looming pension crisis. Since the mid 1980’s serious efforts have been made to resolve the crisis by reforming national pension systems. The mainstream idea behind these reforms was a neoliberal model, advocating by the World

Bank's 1994 pension report. The paper presents an alternative view and following the suggestions of John Myles the author argues that the central issue in the necessary pension reform is that of equity and social justice.

Levente Balogh László: *Catholicism and Liberalism (Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde and His Dictum)*

For a long time, Christian denomination had been struggling with the normative and political framework of modern democracy. Freedom from a transcendental foundation and equal rights irrespective of the values represented by those rights had long been obstructing the process of mutual understanding. A gradually positive approach started to evolve in the climate of the cold war, when the individualistic nature of human rights and the majoritarian principle of parliamentary decision-making gained unequivocal acceptance. Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde and his *dictum* played a decisive role in this process.

Éva Kocziszky: *What is Fundamentalism? (The West Losing Breath)*

The essay investigates the topical question of the nature of fundamentalism, which is often described as the arch-enemy of modern democracy. Guided by the works of Walter Benjamin and Giorgio Agambent, the author explores possible approaches on the realm of political theology.

Beáta Thomka: *The Imaginary Map of Ádám Bodor's Sehöl*

Ádám Bodor's short stories *Sehöl* (*Nowhere*, 2019) constitutes a new fictional document of a negative historical experience. Although these stories of violence are related to Eastern European regions, the factual narration is distinct from the concrete localisation. Bodor's language, plots and forms are suggesting that violence is a universal phenomenon.

Bálint Urbán: *Corpse in the Swamp (Rafael Chirbes: On the Edge)*

The present article departs from the strong opening scene of Rafael Chirbes' novel and tries to analyze the question of the crises and the critical situation of Spanish culture and economy in the 21st century. Chirbes equates the crisis of the Iberian Peninsula with the crisis of the European continent; hence, the novel describes not only the failure of the Iberian traditions, but faces the reader also with the problematic of the new cultural and economic landscape of Europe. The opening image with the corpse in the swamp turns out to be, in this manner, the master metaphor of the text, and synthesizes in itself not only the main thematic elements present in the novel – such as isolation, fragmentation, loneliness, negativity, exploitation, and uncertainty – but also the poetic structure of the novel.

Ágnes Konkoly: „An experience“ (Mark Rothko)

In this year, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna organized a retrospective exhibition dedicated to Mark Rothko. Based on the exhibited oeuvre, the study examines Rothko's artistic evolution and his aesthetic approach, primarily in the context of his early period and the Seagram murals.

Anzelm Vásárhelyi: *The Margins of a Monastery*

Poems by Zsuzsa Takács, Tibor Zalán, János Áfra, and János Gécz